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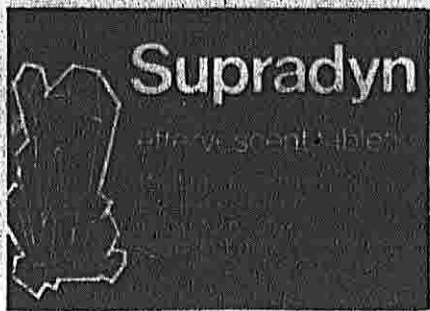
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THANT MAKES VIET MISSION PUBLIC

Talks Can Start "As Soon As" U.S. Stops Bombing North

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 25, (Reuter).—UN Secretary-General U Thant said Saturday that the Hanoi government told him North Vietnam would enter peace talks "as soon as" the United States stopped the air and naval bombardment.

The North Vietnamese had also stated that "the question of the reduction in the fighting and of reconvening the Geneva Conference on Indochina, of which

Britain and Soviet Union are co-chairmen, could be brought up at the talks.

In a 1,600 word report on his recent diplomatic mission to five capitals in quest of a Vietnam peace formula, U Thant appealed again to the United States to take the "indispensable first step" of stopping the bombardment.

He said no great military risk was involved and he was more than ever convinced that peace talks would follow, "even perhaps within a matter of a few days."

After the bombing stopped, U Thant said, it could reasonably be assumed that questions concerning the conduct of the fighting, particularly in the demilitarised zone and across the frontiers, would be dealt with in good faith.

The clarifications on the North Vietnamese position were received by U Thant in Paris through Hanoi's representative there, Mai Van Bo, after the secretary general had put questions through North Vietnam's consul-general in New Delhi, Nguyen Hoa.

"I was told that the Democratic Republic of Vietnam would hold talks with the United States at the appropriate time, that is, as soon as the unconditional cessation of bombing and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam became effective," Thant said.

The secretary-general reported only briefly on his talks in Washington.

Johnson, Rusk Noncommittal

On Thant's Assurances

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, (AFP).—U Thant's appeal for peace in Vietnam appeared last night, unlikely to open the way for early actions.

In Austin, President Johnson's spokesman said he had no comment to make and in Washington the State Department maintained the same noncommittal silence.

In fact the U.S. answer to Thant has been known since Wednesday. It was communicated to the Secretary General by the president himself when they met on that day: No peace talks until Hanoi has offered some guarantees.

The fact that Thant directed his appeal not only to the United States but also to the Soviet Union was expected to make a favourable impression on those American circles which have blamed Thant of holding the U.S. as entirely responsible.

In London's political circles, Thant's appeal aroused a considerable interest. The impression was that Thant's speech confirmed the view expressed by Harold Wilson that the gap between the U.S. and North Vietnamese positions remains very narrow and can be rapidly bridged.

The official London stands however, is that the San Antonio formula—reaffirmed by President Johnson on Wednesday—is quite reasonable.

In Whitehall's view the U.S. is perfectly justified in insisting that Hanoi should not be permitted to take advantage of a halt in the bombing to build up its military potential in South Vietnam.

UNCTAD Delegates Bog Down In Semantics; Forget Plans

NEW DELHI, Feb. 25, (DPA).—The eight-week second world trade conference here has reached the halfway mark with delegates bogged down in semantics and ambitious plans for new economic relations between the rich and poor countries largely forgotten.

As the delegations continue to feel each others pulse and argue on interpretations of passages in purposely vague statements, the question is increasingly heard whether it was worth it to send several thousand top-salaried people from all parts of the world to New Delhi.

The industrialised nations ob-

viously have no intention yet of making any concrete offers which could serve as a basis for serious negotiations.

They fear that the longer the negotiations, the more numerous the concessions that must be made, and that the developing countries, if disappointed by results in some fields, will increase their demands in others.

Consequently, the spokesman of the developed nations are filling the time with long statements reiterating or explaining in more details what was already said before.

There are real discussions in the committees only on political questions which have nothing to do with the practical work, such as Vietnam, the Middle East, Cuba, South Africa and the question of East German membership.

Widespread pessimism among observers is dismissed by the donor countries delegates, who know what offers they have in their luggage and seem confident that these will go far enough to be accepted by the developing countries.

Whether the developing countries will share this view once the offers are put on the table is at the least doubtful. But even if all their demands were met.

(Continued on page 4)

OAU Demands Unconditional Israeli Withdrawal

ADDIS ABABA, Feb. 25, (Reuter).—The ministerial council of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Saturday called for the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories.

A resolution, presented by Algeria and adopted by acclamation, also requested all member states of the OAU to give active political, moral and material assistance to the Arab victims of "Zionist aggression".

The council, which represents all 38 members of the OAU, has been in conference in the Ethiopian capital since Tuesday to discuss both internal OAU matters and general African problems.

The resolution was read out to a press conference by OAU Secretary-General Diallo Telli, who described it as an historical decision.

"Today is a great day for Africa. I would even say, it is really a great day for the world", he said.

The minister reaffirmed active solidarity with the United Arab Republic and all other occupied Arab countries.

GOVT. TROOPS RECAPTURE IMPERIAL CITY OF HUE

HUE, Feb. 25, (Reuter).—South Vietnamese "black panther" troops Saturday stormed Hue's citadel, wresting it from the control of North Vietnamese who have held it stubbornly for nearly a month.

About 450 battle-grimed soldiers charged over bridges across the moat in front of the grounds of the Imperial Palace, meeting only weak resistance from one company of North Vietnamese.

As the South Vietnamese jubilantly celebrated their sudden release from the tension and fear of battle, action was confined to skirmishes in one corner of the fortress.

Government military sources predicted, however, that it may take another month to oust the last remnants of the estimated division of North Vietnamese troops who virtually overran the city on the night of January 30-31 during the Lunar New Year offensive.

South Vietnamese and American troops strolled laughing among civilians sorrowing at the damage to their city.

They walked in and out of shops—government soldiers appeared in new shoes, and no one asked the source of the local beer. American Marines were drinking.

Food is scarce and civilians begged passing army trucks for handouts. U.S. officials announced an airlift of food supplies. And navy ships are due in 24 hours with 190 tons of food.

Capture of the former Imperial Palace inside the citadel ended one of the longest stands North Vietnamese troops have fought.

Hue was the last city in which they were present in any force following the Lunar New Year offensive.

The progress of the battle during the past few days as government and U.S. troops slowly put a stronghold on the North Vietnamese overshadowed all other developments in the war—including the biggest North Vietnamese artillery bombardment since Dien Bien Phu, against the embattled Khe Sanh base. American Marines cleared the

area's south of the city's Perfumed River and the eastern section of the citadel. They said they lost 119 killed and 961 wounded while killing 1,548 North Vietnamese.

Government military sources claimed their troops killed 5,363 North Vietnamese during the battle for the city, losing 439 of their own men killed and 1,964 wounded.

S. Vietnam's Pacification Suffers Setback, Says U.S.

SAIGON, Feb. 25, (Reuter).—The Viet Cong Tet offensive has left a vacuum in South Vietnam's countryside and whether it will be filled by the government or the Viet Cong cannot yet be judged. American officials said yesterday.

They said there is no question that pacification—the government's programme to win the people over to its cause—"has suffered a setback in many areas, though the effect countryside is not as bad as expected."

The offensive has left a vacuum—a vacuum the Viet Cong have not yet tried to fill though we expect they will try.

The pacification programme is considered important that it is commonly known here as "the other war."

Through it, with propaganda and material efforts to lift the living standards of the people, the government attempts to coax the rural population not to pro-medical care, seek out corruption

vide the guerrillas with food, shelter and troops.

The officials, involved in the U.S. government's civilian assistance programme, said it could take up to six months to accurately judge the effects of the offensive on pacification.

Faced with the opinion widespread among experienced observers that the pacification programme has suffered nothing less than obliteration.

One of the officials said: "I feel like a man at his own funeral." However, he argued back: "In some places it's bad, but it can't be all that bad."

Detailing statistics, the officials said that with desertions and deaths the government's 59 man revolutionary development teams are down to an average nationwide strength of 43 to 45.

The revolutionary development teams, the operative arm of the programme, are sent into hamlets to build schools, dispense medical care, seek out corruption

Senators Don't Buy Official Tonkin Account

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, (Reuter).—U.S. President Johnson held up a bombing raid on North Vietnam in retaliation for a communist torpedo boat attack on two American destroyers in 1964 until he was "damned sure what had happened."

Defence Secretary Robert McNamara disclosed in testimony released yesterday.

But publication of the full record of the hearing, minus 250 words censored for security reasons by the Pentagon, showed that a majority of the committee remained unconvinced by the administration's account.

Chairman William Fulbright and other committee members demanded publication of the full hearing after Secretary McNamara had issued part of his testimony last Tuesday.

The Gulf of Tonkin incident, according to the administration, involved attacks by North Viet-

namese motor torpedo boats on United States destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964.

The published text of the hearing showed that a majority of the committee remained unconvinced that such attacks took place or that the United States was justified in a reprisal air attack on North Vietnam.

His 60,000-word testimony last Tuesday was challenged before its release by Sen. Wayne Morse who claimed that the U.S. Maddox, one of the destroyers involved, was a spy ship which had provoked the North Vietnamese attack.

He said in the Senate on Wednesday that the activities of the Maddox, which was accompanied on patrol by the destroyer Turner Joy, were "an act of aggression" and constituted "picking a fight with North Vietnam."

McNamara, who steps down as

LOCUST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING ENDS

KABUL, Feb. 25, (Bakhtar).—The regional FAO Anti-Locust Commission ended its three day fourth session here yesterday recommending coordinated, continuing surveys to be carried out in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, along with preparations to combat locust from attacking any part of the country.

The commission also recommended that immediate steps be taken to check the locust in southern and southwestern Iran.

Among other recommendations the commission said intensive research on the behaviour and reproduction patterns of desert locust should be undertaken.

Personnel from the member countries of the commission, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Iran, should receive grants for further training in locust control the commission added.

In cases of emergencies in the commission—member countries, FAO and the United States promised assistance in annihilating the ravaging locust.

Last night participants were guests of honour at a reception given by Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Eng. Mir Mohammad Reza in Baghe Bala restaurant.

Laos Govt. Forces Retake Post From North Vietnamese

VIENTIANE, Feb. 28, (Reuter).—Eight North Vietnamese soldiers were captured when Laos government

ment troops retook the outpost of Ban Lao Ngan Saturday the government announced here.

The southern Laos outpost was overrun by North Vietnamese forces following a pitched battle Friday.

Laos military sources said 80 North Vietnamese bodies had been found by the Fifth Parachute Battalion of the neutralist army, which recaptured the position.

The government announced that its casualties were only one dead and 26 wounded, but military sources estimated that the paratroopers had lost at least 80 men in taking the outpost.

About 200 government and North Vietnamese troops were killed during the fighting for the camp, which lies about 40 km. southwest of the southern provincial capital of Saravane.

The outpost at Lao Ngam is strategically important for the defence of Saravane, which lies only 80 km. from the border with South Vietnam.

Saravane, which is situated astride a major infiltration route into South Vietnam, has reportedly been threatened by large North Vietnamese forces for some weeks.

Meanwhile, the government announced in Vientiane that three T-28 dive-bombers were missing. The Laos air force planes are believed to have been lost during a strafing raid on the Tha Thom area, about 160 km. northeast of here in eastern and central Laos.

North Vietnamese forces and their communist Pathet Lao allies captured the town of Tha Thom last Tuesday and are said to be now pushing south through central Laos driving government forces before them.

Military sources here believe the North Vietnamese are seeking to capture another provincial capital in Laos soon to strengthen their hold in the land-locked kingdom.

Seminar Opens In Kunduz

KUNDUZ, Feb. 25, (Bakhtar).—Cooperation between the people and the provincial government in providing better educational facilities, hospitals, agricultural and livestock cooperatives, literacy programmes are the subjects of a seminar which opened yesterday in Kunduz.

The seminar which is being attended by provincial officials, parliamentary representatives, village elders and a number of citizens was opened by Governor Dr. Mahmoud Habibi.

Habibi, a former teacher and journalist, said that for the smooth running of the projects undertaken in the province, and for ensuring proper implementation of these projects it is imperative that the people understand them, want them, and be willing to give a hand in fulfilling the tasks at hand.

France Criticises U.S. Economic Measures

PARIS, Feb. 25, (AFP).—Finance and Economy Minister Michel Debre yesterday attacked the measures announced by President Johnson on New Year's Day to curb the United States balance of payments deficit, voicing fears they would become permanent.

Addressing the Foreign Press Association here, the French minister said the measures envisaged by the American government "are insufficient to eliminate the deficit of its balance of payments."

The proposed measures "cannot be temporary and last only a few months" he affirmed, adding that France was concentrating her efforts on "avoiding their implementation" for we cannot see how, afterwards, they could be lifted.

Debre also criticised the U.S. emphasising the dangers involved in international trade, and asked whether the U.S. moves meant a return to trade restrictions after two decades of trade liberalisation.

For the Common Market countries, the main problem of economic policy over the next several months would be the American measures affecting international trade, rather than domestic issues.

He cited a recent statement by the U.S. treasury secretary recommending early agreement on drawing rights in the International Monetary Fund even if the planned reform of the IMF should take some time.

Debre said the decision made by the IMF assembly at Rio De Janeiro last September clearly stipulated that the two moves should be implemented simultaneously.

He said the finance ministers of the six had renewed their agreement on this when they met in Paris last December.

Weightlessness Said To Affect Reproduction

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, (AFP).—American scientists have discovered that certain bacteria can reproduce more rapidly in state of weightlessness and could provide a serious danger to future cosmonauts.

Among the bacteria which showed an accelerated rate of reproduction were salmonella bacteria which cause food poisoning.

Their findings, based on the examination of plants and animal organisms orbited for 45 hours in a space laboratory last September, were discussed here Friday at a symposium organised by NASA and the American Academy of Science.

It was also found that the death rate among the off-spring of weevils subjected to cosmic radiation under weightless flight conditions was twice as high as that among weevils irradiated on the ground.

Generally speaking, plants were found to have difficulty in maintaining their proper orientation under weightlessness.

The leaves of pepper plants bent back on themselves, and the roots of wheat shoots tended to grow upwards or side-ways instead of penetrating down into the soil.

When returned to laboratory conditions, however, the roots behaved normally and the final head of wheat produced was better developed than those of similar grains grown on the ground.

(Continued on page 4)



THE KABUL TIMES

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AFRICAN UNITY

The five day meeting of the ministerial council of the Organisation of African Unity which ended yesterday unanimously came out with stranger decisions than most political observers anticipated. Never before had the 38 members of the OAU been so unanimous in their views on some of the important problems facing their continent and member nations.

Their unanimous call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces is indeed a pleasant surprise. Israel has been trying to woo African friendship by the offer of technical and economic assistance. Many of the African students, from at least 25 countries of Africa, are taking their training in Israel. Israel has also been trying to make capital out of African markets for its products.

In addition she has been trying to disrupt the unity of the African nations most of whom are young and inexperienced in the international politics. Since the end of the six day Middle East war in June, some African nations have kept quiet on the issue of the withdrawal of Israeli forces, and thus OAU announcement on this question was most welcome.

Their resolute calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab land occupied during the June war shows that they are determined to uphold justice and seek peace. We are happy to see that they have all accepted the resolution after the United Arab Republic chief delegate and minister for national orientation made his statement on the Middle East. The OAU's "expression of Africa's humiliation and sympathy and desire for solidarity with a sister member" confirms the OAU's concern for the fate of any of the African countries.

Food For Thought

Growth is the only evidence of

life.

—John Henry Newmann

The resolution of OAU on the Middle East goes one step further and calls for active solidarity of African countries in support of the United Arab Republic and other countries whose "territories are occupied by force".

The adoption of the Middle East resolution shows Israeli attempts to penetrate and break down the unity of the Africans have been thwarted and that the Africans, many of whom have been the victims of imperialism themselves are determined to continue with their battle for freedom to the last.

This is specially true from another part of the resolution which calls for support to be given to the black Africans of South Africa.

The time has come for Africans to actively and militantly support their compatriots in South Africa to throw off the shackle of apartheid.

Their decision not to attend the Olympic games in Mexico this October shows their determination to boycott South Africa in every international gathering until the policy of apartheid is revoked.

Considering the present oppression in South Africa against the black populace, it was indeed a surprise to see the International Olympic Committee decide to re-admit South Africa to the Mexico games. The Africans are justified in using means to thwart apartheid.

Unfortunately in local problems the OAU did not come out with definite answers. The civil war in Nigeria is continuing and no one knows when will it end. The last OAU meeting failed to press Biafran leaders to stop the war. Similarly it did not recommend firm measures to be taken against Ian Smith regime of Rhodesia.

Israel Preparing For New Aggression

The Israeli Government is quietly marshalling its defences for the possibility of a fourth war with the Arab States.

A number of recent developments have cast this attitude into sharp relief.

The first is the defence budget for the fiscal year beginning in April 1968, which is higher than any previous one.

Secondly, Israel is also making determined efforts to strengthen and rejuvenate its Air Force which, though victorious on the June war, is threatened with obsolescence by the time a new warlike encounter may break out.

The new Chief of staff, Major General Haim Bar-Lev, declared in a statement in the day he took command that Israel would not be overawed by threats of foreign volunteers. And steps are being taken to redress Israel's manpower imbalance by trying to attract more immigrants from the West.

Israel's budget for 1968-69 which has just been submitted to the Knesset (Parliament) totals nearly 6,000 million Israeli pounds (about £ 714 million sterling). One quarter of this is set aside for the Defence Ministry, while additional military expenditures — which are divulged only to the Parliamentary Defence Committee—are concealed with other budgetary items.

The Finance Minister has merely disclosed that about two-thirds of tax revenue is spent for military purposes. A special emergency surtax tacked on to the ordinary income tax shortly before the June war broke out, has been retained.

A large part of the defence budget is earmarked for arms procurement—how much of it, will depend on whether President de Gaulle persists in his refusal to deliver to Israel the 50 Mirage V jets which were ordered over a year ago and are now being made ready at the Dassault works. Two-thirds of the price has been paid in advance.

Should Israel be forced to substitute more expensive U.S.-made Phantom jets for the Mirages, as reported from abroad, this would make further inroads into the country's finances.

On New Year's Eve, Major General Haim Bar-Lev, who had been formally installed a few hours earlier as Israel's new Chief of Staff, gave a radio interview.

Asked about the possibility of "volunteers" one day fighting alongside the Egyptians, he indicated that Israel would take on all comers, so long as it was not a matter of direct intervention by a world power. Volunteers were not the end

of the world for Israel, he said. "One should bear in mind that the Israeli Army has the advantage of experience in three wars against Egypt. Volunteers with no such experience and not fighting for their own country, as the Israelis would be, would be a doubtful match."

The manpower problem has become acute as a result of the six-day war and its aftermath.

Two-and-a-half million Jews are just not enough to maintain a modern infrastructure like Israel's protected by a military force with a highly sophisticated weaponry. Conscription has therefore been extended both for men and women.

The obvious remedy is immigration. Unless circumstances change, 20,000 newcomers are expected this year, but still more are needed.

The President of the World Zionist Organisation, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, is now sponsoring the establishment of a "League of Practising Zionists" with in the Organisation; they would undertake to immigrate to Israel within three to four years. The Israeli Government, on its part, has promised to enact a new law giving a series of privileges to newcomers to smooth the initial difficulties of their integration. (OFNS)

Burmese Donate Bodies For Science

Donations of bodies after death for the advancement of medical science is becoming common in Burma.

Blood donors are also on the increase and contribute to a national blood bank.

A former minister is among some 150 people who have so far left their bodies to medical institutes here. Some have even agreed to let parts of their bodies be used to save other human beings.

As the popularity of donating bodies has increased the medical institute here has ordered printed forms which the prospective donor merely has to fill in and his body belongs to the institute after his death.

The first body donation in Burmese was in October 1964 and the next

in 1965 was by Thankin Kha, of the Burmese oil fields workers, who died last year and whose body is now in the medical institute here, being used for teaching anatomy.

One of the largest mass donations was in Mandalay where 69 sandboat workers, aged from 17 to 73, signed their bodies over to science.

An official of the Rangoon Medical Institute said that the new popularity for donating bodies had greatly helped the institute. Previously they had been using unclaimed bodies from hospital mortuaries for teaching and dissection.

There are between 500 and 600 unclaimed bodies at Rangoon general hospital alone.

The number of blood donors in

Burma increased from 10,867 in 1966 to 14,068 last year. But even so the Rangoon general hospital could not meet the demand for blood plasma last year.

Blood is given at the rate of 30 to 40 bottles a day but the hospital needs between 60 to 70 bottles. Usually the hospital asks relatives or friends of a patient to donate blood for them, hospital authorities said.

Professional blood donors are paid 30 to 40 kyats (about three sterling) a bottle. This however, has encouraged indiscriminate donors and the medical authorities have restricted offers of blood to those between the ages of 18 and 25 and weighing at least 100 pounds, and in good health. (REUTERS)

HOME PRESS AT A GLANCE

Today *Isiah* carries an editorial on the material well-being of government officials. It is only, to obvious, it said that an under-fed and ill-clothed man cannot be expected to function satisfactorily in whatever job he is engaged.

It is therefore necessary for government officials to receive a salary which will guarantee at least a minimum of comfort and well-being for civilised people.

Under the present circumstances, the editorial went on, official salaries can hardly meet this requirement. Moreover although most officials, especially those who have large families, cannot make ends meet they are subject to paying income tax.

The editorial called on the Administrative Reform Commission set up by the government to study this aspect of the intended reforms.

Raising salaries is not the way to solve the problem, for it will certainly lead to higher prices, thus hurting those on the government payroll.

The only way to remedy this situation is to launch consumer co-operatives for government officials whereby they could obtain the goods they need at a much lower price than otherwise possible.

The editorial also urged the commission to study the problems of health insurance and recreation. Most government employees cannot make use of their annual holidays because they have nowhere to go. The construction of rest homes and holidays resorts will be a sure remedy for this.

Saturday's *Anis* once again raises the question of housing. Referring to its last editorial, in which the construction of multi-storey housing blocks were suggested it says that at blocks were suggested it says that at the present, apart from the Construction Bank, Prefabricated Housing Factory and the Afghan Construction Unit, there are a number of private construction enterprises.

The paper believes that these construction companies have sufficient financial and material resources so that if they are brought together and centralised, they will be able to build concrete housing blocks and thus bring an end to the present awkward condition of housing in the city.

The paper refers to the houses built in scattered areas of city and at the foot of mountains that look like beehives.

Heywad devotes its editorial to the Afghan Red Crescent Society. It says that for several years the society has been distributing aid, in the form of clothes and money to the needy people of the city. The distribution of this year's aid started yesterday.

Praising this humanitarian move, it refers to the fact that the Afghan Red Crescent Society, in the past, has had some difficulties in finding enough people to carry out the distribution programme for 37,500 needy people in the city.

The paper suggests that people should voluntarily take part in this good cause, and urges students on vacation to serve with the society.

The *Wall Street Journal* wrote in an editorial that the American people should be ready to accept the prospect that "the whole Vietnam effort may be doomed."

The editorial predicted that the U.S. will be confronted with a disaster when it gives up in Vietnam after realising that its aims there cannot be attained.

But continuing the fight under the present circumstances might constitute a worse disaster, it said.

"We believe the administration is duty-bound to recognise that no battle and no war is worth any price. And that in the case of Vietnam it may be failing for the simple reason that the whole place and cause is collapsing from within."

"Conceivably all this is wrong—conceivably the communists are on the brink of defeat and genuine peace talks are about to begin. It doesn't look that way, and as long as it doesn't everyone had better be prepared for the bitter taste of a defeat beyond America's power to prevent" the paper said.

The United States has privately urged Israel to relax her demands for direct negotiations with the Arab states to arrange a Middle East settlement the *International Herald Tribune* said quoting reliable sources in Washington.

These sources disclosed that U.S. Secretary State Dean Rusk had recently written to Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban to encourage the Israeli government to accept unequivocally the United Nations Sec-

urity Council resolution of November 22 outlining the framework for a Middle East settlement.

The sources said the Johnson administration was leaning on the Israeli government to proceed into substantive negotiations with the Arabs indirectly through the UN intermediary, Gunnar Jarring on Arab capitals to cooperate more fully with the jarring mission and to enter into indirect talks with Israel.

Australia's ambition to become the bread basket for all Asia "must rest on the political goodwill of her Asiatic buyers," the *Corn Trade News* writes in its latest weekly edition "and, in our view, this is a far too insecure foundation."

This ambition is based on her geographical position and on her ability to produce wheat, barley, oats, sorghums at low prices taking a chance with China, Russia, India and other Asiatic countries eventually becoming self sufficient.

Asiatic populations may be increasing, the trade journal points out, and currently they may be short of food grains, but they are very energetic and intelligent communities, quite capable of learning western techniques in agricultural production.

Some Asiatic wheat markets have been expanded at the expense of rice ultimately, however, any expansion of Australia's wheat industry to attain average annual crops of 450 to 500 million bushels must rest on the political goodwill of her Asiatic buyers and, in our view, this is a far too insecure foundation.

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First British Anti-University Opens

Britain's first antiuniversity opened in London this week offering its students courses in book burning, black power and antipsychiatry—but no degrees.

Behind the words "antiuniversity of London" roughly painted on the door of a house in a narrow East End street, a team of international artists, psychiatrists and poets have set up school.

The chief book burner is British artist John Latham who will be discussing the ideas behind his work, which consists of half-destroyed books mounted in college.

Latham's anti-bookishness erupted last year when he dissolved school library book in acid and returned it to the library.

Shortly afterwards he lost his job as lecturer at Saint's art school. The new university, which has a forerunner in the free university of New York, seems to be acting as a melting pot for intellectuals looking for a more liberal climate for their ideas.

Several of them have been associated with an avant-garde bookshop venture called "Better Books," others for example are interested in the topic of drugs, including Alexander Trotter, author of a best-seller about a drug addict in New York called "Cain's Book."

The organisers, who have formed a committee to run the school, boast about 150 members who have enrolled for courses ranging from electronic music and drug to China and the freedom of the individual.

Fees are cheap. Registration costs eight pounds sterling and ten shillings sterling is charged for each

course, but then no degrees or qualifications are offered and few facilities apart from four small lecture rooms.

The faculty is international. Black power seminars are under the direction of the Nigerian president of the Universal Coloured Peoples Association, Obi Egbuna.

And a South African psychiatrist working in London, Dr. David Cooper, will take the antipsychiatry classes.

He said he wanted to discuss "psychology and politics and to examine what happens when a whole nation goes mad—like the United States in Vietnam."

Dr. Cooper explained he had chosen the term antipsychiatry because he was interested in what happens when basic rules of procedure are reversed.

The antiuniversity should provide him with good subject matter. (REUTERS)

Eskimos Doubtful Of Trans-Arctic Trip

Many local Eskimos have shown doubts about the British trans-Arctic expedition's plan to trek 3,500 miles across some of the world's most treacherous terrain.

The Eskimos think the distance and the time the expedition will take—about 16 months—will be vital factors in the trek, which expedition leader Wally Herbert calls a "horizontal Everest."

The trek, from Piont Barrow in Alaska via the North Pole to Spitsbergen, has never been accomplished before.

The four-man sledging party is waiting at the U.S. navy's Arctic research station, five miles outside Point Barrow in North America, for favourable weather and ice conditions before setting out.

Their departure was postponed for the third time last Wednesday by high winds.

Eskimos are apprehensive about the mission because of the type of ice, which they describe as rougher to travel on than Antarctic or Greenland ice.

Eskimo Tom Brouwer thinks the expedition should leave from

place 30 miles east of Point Barrow, where the currents are not so strong and the ice is better.

The winds are almost a constant factor. When they blow from the north they tend to move the ice towards land, creating pressure ridges and open water in the winter ice pack which lies between the Arctic ice and shore.

Eskimos say the pressure ridges could become top-heavy and submerge, and then rise up through another spot in the ice impossible to predict.

Such ridges often are 40 to 50 feet high, grotesquely carved by wind and pressure action.

Delays in starting were expected when the expedition was planned, according to one member, captain Ken Hedges. But he said the men and the 40 huskies which will pull their sleds were impatient to get going.

Eskimos are intrigued by the manner in which the dogs are hitched up. The fan-shaped style of five dogs on a single trace each side of the heavy sleds differs from the usual Alaskan method of pairs and single dogs strung out in a line of as many as 20 dogs.

The Navy research station facility director, Dr. Max Brewer, who has been in Point Barrow 18 years, describes the expedition as one of the best or, ganised he has ever seen.

The days waiting have been occupied with practice trips, including overnight camps and becoming used to snow conditions.

The average temperature at this time of year in Point Barrow is 30 degrees (fahrenheit) below zero. There are more than seven hours of daylight with long pre-dawn and post sunset glows.

In mid-summer, when the ice is melting, the travellers may have to remain in one place for a month or six weeks.

Captain Hedges said the expedition will not turn back if the going gets too rough. "That would be impossible because then we would be going against the ice drift," he explained.

They will give up their attempt only if someone is critically injured, and then they will be airlifted out.

Bush pilots have been hired to make seven food drops during the trip. (REUTERS)



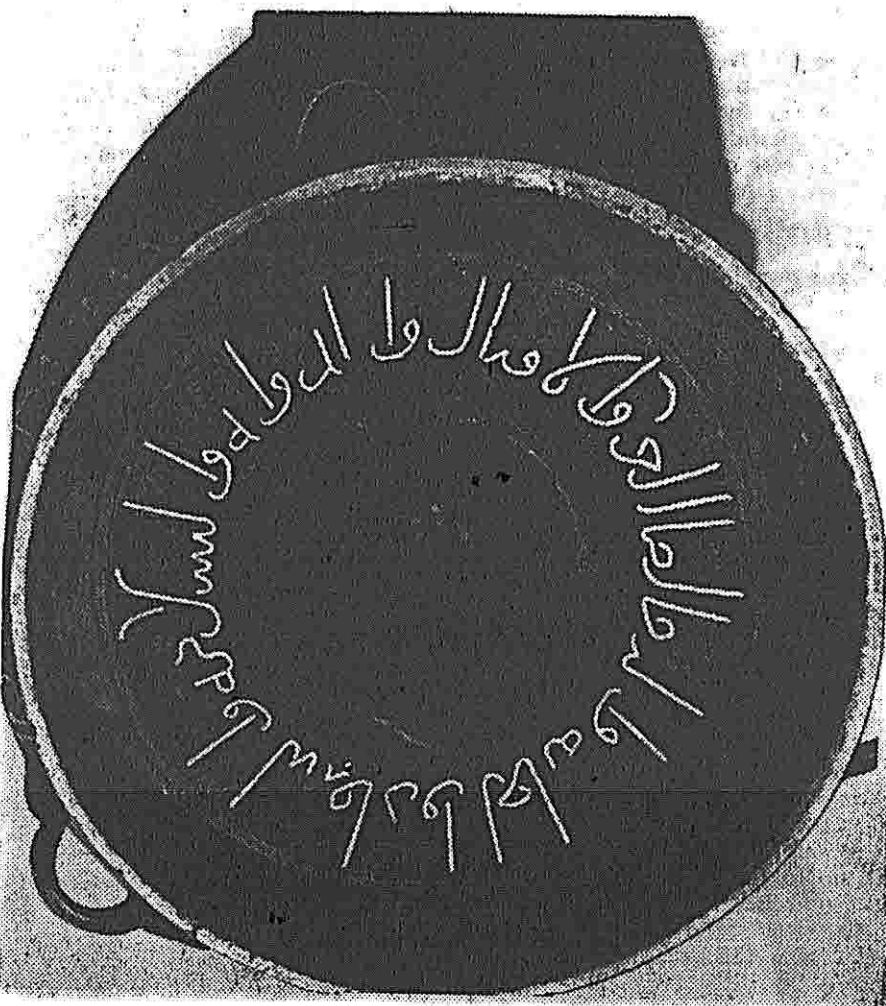
These copper and bronze bowls were made in 12th or 13th century Ghazni when the Ghaznavids were in their zenith of power and industry.

However one thing constantly reminds one of its grandeur. The skill of Ghazni coppersmiths. Copper and bronze objects made in Ghazni have been flowing into homes in Kabul and nearly all other parts of Afghanistan for centuries.

Objects made a 100 years ago cost more than what present day made ones. The demand for Ghazni's bronze and copper still persists even though markets today are filled with local and imported porcelain ware.

HERAT, Feb. 25, (Bakhtar).—An exhibition of the renowned miniaturist Mohammad Said Mashal was opened here in cooperation with the Information and Culture Department. 35 Mashal's recent works are on display. It is the second one man show Mashal is holding in the last three years.

His first one was held in Kabul in 1966.



Making A Round Of Kabul's Antique Shops

By Margaret Jane Frank

I am an English girl visiting Afghanistan and have become really interested in the antique shops in Kabul. Once I lived above an antique shop in Church Street, in London but the goods displayed there were gaudy and modern compared with most of the antiques in Kabul.

If an English duke visited Kabul, I am sure he would buy some of the swords and shields for his armoury room or for decoration in the entrance hall of his castle.

Old guns, pistols, gunpowder containers, vests with stitches made from metal instead of wool are examples of things which attract two kinds of English people. The inkeeper is the other person who wants them to turn his public house into a haven with a real old-world atmosphere.

There is beautiful china here but it is not bought so much by tourists because of the great risk of breakage. I priced a beautiful old plate in intricate design and pastel shades at Af. 1,400. It would have been ideal for hanging on a wall. There are also lovely little teapots with cups and saucers to match. The older cups are without handles.

Carpets, however small, make an ideal present to send to one's home country, simply because we do not see the hand made ones in Europe, or rarely. The cherry red carpets shown in the shops in Kabul make a room look cosy and warm and match well with mahogany furniture.

The shopkeepers showed me some unusual jewelry. The bracelets worn by the Kuchi women, made of silver coloured metal and studded with coloured stones make a good buy for the tourist, especially the narrower ones.

The ear-rings are also attractive as they are so unusual to the western eye but many of them are too long for wear in Europe. A shopkeeper asked only Af. 20 for an intricate ring made of fine metal with a large coloured stone in the centre.

The embroidered shopping bags of the type found in the bazaar at Istalif and in the green door bazaar here are a very good buy. The embroidery often in green, pink, yellow and orange is finely worked and they make attractive and useful presents. They are sold at a low price here compared with Europe.

There is a large supply of blue glass. There are vases and egg cups of all shapes. These make an attractive buy for the foreigner living in Kabul.

I saw necklaces of many kinds. The silver-coloured metal ones studded with coloured jewels look very smart with a plain black, tailored dress. There are some interesting ones made of coils of metal threaded on a metal chain.

Something else which European people buy is the silver drinking glass holder. I have used them in London. This old silver polishes to look really attractive.

If a tourist wants to purchase something out of the ordinary he can take home a lamp of brass coloured metal which was lit in the old days to keep evil spirits away. I also saw some ancient wood carvings of human figures from Nooristan.

Donkey bags in lovely old hand-weaving are a good buy for the tourist. My friend, with whom I am travelling has his full of old letters, maps and other papers. As we only have donkeys at the seaside they are a rarity. I love the old bags made of carpeting too. The plainer ones, without too many tassels are smarter.

I also saw a tiger's head with the skin attached. I have been in country houses at home where the owners like this sort of thing. It is usually the house where labrador dogs room at will and they keep a horse or two for riding.

(Continued on page 4)

WHERE ARE THE MISSING GATES OF MAHMUD'S TOMB

In 1025 A.D. Mahmud of Ghazni etc. The Taj Mahal would have been auctioned off and dismantled for its marble.

It is generally believed that he carried with him the sandalwood gates of the temple, the exquisite carving of which appealed greatly to him.

The British in their expedition into Afghanistan in 1842 found the tomb of Mahmud at Ghazni equipped with beautiful wooden gates. Whether they mistook these gates to be the famous portals of Somnath, or it was simply a stratagem to gain the goodwill of the Indian masses, is not known. The gates were removed and transported to India with extraordinary precautions.

It was declared that an insult of 800 years back had been avenged. Lord Ellenborough made the historic proclamation, and they were identified as the Gates of Somnath.

They were brought to Agra with great pomp to be despatched to Somnath for restoration but they proceeded no further. Since 1842, they have been stored in the western apartment of the dargah of Shahjahan Mahal in the fort of Agra.

With the appointment of Major-General Alexander Cunningham as Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India, an era of great archaeological activity began. Sites were explored and excavated and monuments restored and conserved systematically after 1862.

Large amounts of money were allotted for the purpose and every possible effort made to preserve the monuments and other invaluable items of the Indian culture which not only made Indian history but also revealed a glorious past.

But for these efforts, we would not have known the ancient sites of Pushkalavati (Charsadda), Purushpur (Peshawar), Taxila (Rawalpindi), Mathura, Sanchi Bharhut, Amaravati, Nagarjuna

have been auctioned off and dismantled for its marble.

The sincere efforts on the part of art-lovers, saved them from man as successfully as from nature. Curzon, the enlightened viceroy, made the greatest contribution in this direction.

Sir John Marshall, the then Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India seems to have posted the following notice by these gates:

"These gates which were brought from Ghazni in Afghanistan by the British in 1842 are stated to have been taken from the Tomb of the famous Mahmud Yamin ud-Daulah of Ghazni (997-1030). At the time of their removal it was erroneously supposed that they had been carried off by that monarch from the Hindu temple of Somnath and a proclamation was issued by the then Governor-General, Lord Ellenborough, that they were to be restored with all due ceremony to their original home.

"They were accordingly conveyed in Lord Ellenborough's train from Firozpur to Agra, but the intention of restoring them to Somnath being abandoned they proceeded no further on the way to their proclaimed destination.

"The tradition, based on no historical authority that these gates were of sandalwood and were brought from Somnath, is completely disproved by the fact that the wood of which they are constructed is the local deodar of Ghazni; that the style of their decoration bears no resemblance to Hindu work and that an Arabic character in Kufic inscription relating to the family of Subuktigin is carved upon them."

The notice no more hangs there and the visitors generally take these gates to be those of Somnath. This is what the guides say. And the gates have been stored here for the last 125 years!

"In 1842, when the report of the committee assembled by order of Major-General Nott was submitted

from Peshawar, the gates were in a fair state of preservation, at least the upper portion was intact.

The doors were divided by pilasters each crowned by a beautiful stalactite ornament.

Between them the star-shaped panels, exquisitely carved in conventional arabesque scrolls, had been fixed. Besides these, the octagonal and hexagonal panels bearing a similar decoration had also been used.

They had all been fixed—one with the help of the other—into the frame and the pilasters without the use of rivets. It was noted that the gates were originally decorated with plates of some precious metal including the frame were 16 feet, 6 inches high and 13 feet 6 inches broad.

The wood was, of course, extremely dry and brittle; the total weight did not exceed half a ton. The Kufic inscription which was

(Continued on page 4)

ART: CLASSIC AND MODERN

PART I

of today's Serbia reach back into the dim past. The first and earliest Paleolithic age is still incompletely known and investigated, so that the findings at Gradac near Kragujevac and in Risovac near Arandeljelovac are more signs of habitation of the territory in the time of the hunting-gathering civilisation, than objects of art.

The transition from hunting to a primitive agricultural way of life, encouraged accelerated development of these regions: numerous settlements sprang up and larger cultural-historical regions began to form, such as the Lower

Podunavlje, the Morava Basin, the mountain regions of Western Serbia, and the Pannonian region. In the Neolithic, Bronze and Hallstatt ages distinctive cultures developed, tied to large settlements such as Lepenski Vir, St. arcevo, Vincas plocnick, etc. Art flourished particularly during the time of the Illyrians, when their skilled craftsmanship in working metals was enriched by Greek influences. In Roman times the territory of today's Serbia was lively and developed: numerous border fortifications were constructed on the Sava and the Danube (Limes), strong lines of communications established (Tranjan's Road through the

Djerdap Gorge) and large townships built (Sirmium, Singidunum, Gamzigrad, Viminacium, Naissus, Ulpiana, and others).

With the great tribal migrations, the disintegration of the Roman Empire and the arrival of the Slavs in the 6th Century, life in this territory changed substantially: communications were destroyed, the large towns abandoned and demolished, the ethnic structure of the inhabitants altered.

The strong and vital Slavs prevailed, and with them came a new culture that took shape in the first Serbian state centres in Duklja and Raska. Already in Stevan Nemanja's time, in the latter half of the 12th Century, the Serbian state was stabilised as a political and military organisation. It had its own language and script, its religion, trade, and powerful army.

Over the next two and a half centuries, under the leadership of Nemanja's successors, the borders of the Serbian medieval state were constantly shifted outward towards Bosnia in the west, the Adriatic Sea in the southwest, Byzantium and Salonika in the south and towards Belgrade and Smederevo in the north.

The warlike and ambitious kings and feudalists were also great benefactors of the church. Cities and military fortifications were raised, churches and foundation buildings constructed, frescoes and icons painted, books copied and manuscripts illuminated.

At the turn of the 13th Century, the Crusader invasions, the fall of Constantinople in 1204 and the foundation of the Latin Empire, abruptly curtailed the cultural life of the Byzantium.

The withering of its might in all fields enabled national schools of painting to attain independence. In Serbia, the 12th Century painting traditions that had reached their culmination in Djurdjevi Stupovi were abandoned, and elements of a national style made their appearance in the frescoes of the Holy Virgin Church in Studenica.

The second installment of this article will be carried next Sunday on page 3.

On Giving And Receiving Advice

By R.S.S.

Like most eastern countries advice is given free in Afghanistan, irrespective of the way it is received. Advice can be given by any one on anything and the authority of the advisor is usually not challenged.

To give advice you don't have to be a specialist in any field, only you have to sound highly experienced in what you are advising. And you must not sound impersonal in your experience.

In your appearance you have to look a little elderly although it is not essential. Your tone should be slightly heavy and your accent very distinct.

To support your ideas you could add some illustrative examples and if you are able to indicate the exact dates of certain happenings so much the better.

Style of advice giving must be adjusted to the person receiving it. If the person receiving is a young person you must sound slightly authoritative, while for a middle aged person your attitude should be sympathetic.

Old people are not good receptants and even if they manage to keep quiet till you reach the middle of your advice they can no longer tolerate to hear without adding their own advice and their own experiences, thus often leading the topic far away from where it started. Thus it is advisable

not to try to make the old a prey to your advice.

But if you happen to start on an advice giving campaign, you must at the same time be prepared for counter-attacks by your subjects and should know how to receive it when unavoidable.

If doing advice giving, for instance, you happen to clear your throat, you are sure to be confronted by statements like—

"Oh, you have a bad throat, you better get some zoof" (seeds of a local herb).

"Wash it well and boil it once and drink at the time of sleep."

"Don't be careless about your throat for if you are not careful now it can turn into a very serious attack of pneumonia."

or... "Your throat is completely gone case, why don't you chew some sweet-stick and tie the boiled one on your neck? You know it can be very serious."

or... "Take some gul-khatni (again a local wild flower) and boil it along with some banafshan, and drink it immediately, and you will see how quickly you will be relieved."

"And don't take these English medicines they are very warm and do more harm than good." Here it would be better for you to say, "really! I must take

it tonight, I am so awfully sick", even if you are sure that your throat is in perfect health and that slight cough was only a temporary effect of the dust you happened to breathe while somebody was sweeping the floor.

Never arouse the disapproval of your advisor by denying the existence of your disease.

If you happen to be lazy for a day for a change and before you were able to brush the carpet a visitor drops in, you might hear, "tell this little girl to clean the carpet immediately after something is spilt on it otherwise it will be eaten by moths".

It is better for you to say, "Yes I must tell her, she is such a hard-headed person that she does not do it herself."

Sometimes you might happen to be attacked by two or more advisors at the same time, with contradictory advice, but you should behave as if you did not notice the contradiction and assure every one that you will carry out their advice.

A successful key for developing good social relations would be to tell your advisors on a subsequent meeting how helpful their advice had been for you and if you succeed in doing so you are prepared for your campaign too.



KABUL, Feb. 25, (Bakhtar).—Bakhtar News Agency and Agence France Press (AFP) yesterday concluded an agreement on the exchange of news. The agreement was signed for Bakhtar by Bakhtar President Abdul Hamid Mobarez, and for AFP by Claude Berard AFP bureau chief in Tehran. AFP will provide Bakhtar news agency international news and Bakhtar will transmit to AFP home news of international significance. Above Mobarez (left) and Berard exchange the agreement.

Serious Narcotic Addiction Problem Found In Hong Kong

HONG KONG, Feb. 25, (Reuters).—The problem of drug addiction was more serious in Hong Kong than in Singapore or Bangkok. Dr. Istvan Bayer, social affairs officer of the United Nations Division of Narcotics Drugs at Geneva told a press conference a 23-member United Nations group on a study tour of treatment and rehabilitation centres for drug addicts in Bangkok, Singapore and Hong Kong, said heroin was the most popular drug used by the addicts in the colony.

Although the drug addiction problem in Hong Kong was "very grave", the authorities were tackling it very well, he said. Treatment and rehabilitation facilities in the colony were very good.

"We are very impressed by the institutes in Hong Kong. They are receiving very considerable support from the government", the UN official said. His group would however re-

commend that the Hong Kong authorities as well as the voluntary organisations involved in the work, should expand their facilities, he said.

The UN body chose Bangkok, Singapore and Hong Kong for the study tour because there were established treatment and rehabilitation institutes in these places, Dr. Bayer said.

The group has prepared a report and recommendations and suggestions contained in it would be circulated among members of the group who come from 11 Asian countries.

Transplant Man Sees Wife's Face For First Time

CAPE TOWN, Feb. 25, (AFP).—Dr. Philip Blaiberg was reported yesterday evening to be in satisfactory condition.

A member of the Groot Schuur Hospital transplant team said that the doctors were happy with Dr. Blaiberg's condition. He had been asked to comment on rumours to the contrary.

Dr. Blaiberg also looked through a window for the first time in three months. He was reported to be as "delighted as a schoolboy."

He walked to an adjoining room in his sterile suit where he is recovering from the heart transplant operation performed on January 2 by Prof. Christian Barnard and the transplant team. His own room has frosted glass windows.

Dr. Blaiberg also had another surprise yesterday—he saw his wife's face for the first time since his operation.

Doctors allowed Mrs. Blaiberg to remove surgical mask she has worn during her daily visits to her husband, but she remained behind the screen outside the dentist's sterilised room.

"He was happy to see what I looked like again," Mrs. Blaiberg said, "until yesterday he saw only my eyes."

Her husband, she said, was "full of the joys of spring yesterday."

Doctors also allowed him to see a newspaper which carried a full page of photos taken in his hospital room.

"They are delightful pictures, he really looks nice," Mrs. Blaiberg said.

Lost Gates

(Continued from page 3) carved on the wood on the frame was translated as follows:

"In the name of the most merciful God (may there be) forgiveness from God for the most noble Ameer, the Great King (he who was) born to become the Lord of the State and the Lord of Religion. Abil Kasim Mahmood, the son of Subuktigin. May be mercy of God be upon him."

The style of decoration, without any doubt, belongs to Afghanistan and may, in some respects, be compared with the woodworks of Kashmir, e.g. the Mosque of Madani at Srinagar.

But during the last 125 years practically nothing has been done to preserve this ancient, invaluable irreplaceable treasure. The panels are fast rotting. Natural decay, which could have been prevented, has set in and soon these gates of the Grand Tomb of Mahmud Ghazni will be a mere heap of rubbish and dust.

It is inconceivable that they are serving any purpose at the sort of Agra—with which they are least associated. Stored in this miserable condition, they are, simply making a mockery of our efforts, as culture-conscious 20th-century citizens of India, to preserve them.

Home Briefs

KABUL, Feb. 25, (Bakhtar).—The British Ambassador Sir G. Arden Whittridge yesterday paid a call on Chief Justice Dr. Abdul Hakim Ziaee in the Supreme Court offices in Darul Aman.

KANDAHAR, Feb. 25, (Bakhtar).—During the last 12 days 2316 persons have left for a pilgrimage to Mecca by the Ariana Afghan Airlines.

CHARIKAR, Feb. 25, (Bakhtar).—An adult literacy course was opened Thursday in Habib Khel village by the Sayed Khal Rural Development Project. Fifteen women have enrolled.

AIBAK, Feb. 25, (Bakhtar).—Samangan Governor Faqr Nabi Alefi yesterday opened a pistachio nursery in an experimental reforestation programme.

Yen Won't Be Devalued, Says Japan

TOKYO, Feb. 25, (Reuters).—Reports of possible devaluation of Japanese currency were yesterday emphatically denied by Japanese government officials, while Japanese exchange banks said they would positively buy yen if it was sold in overseas capital markets.

Yusuke Kashiwagi, International Finance Bureau director of the Finance Ministry, told a press conference that he was completely puzzled by the reports because there was nothing which could even suggest the idea that yen might be devalued.

He stressed Japan's programme to solve the balance of payments problems was making satisfactory progress.

The Japanese exchange banks said the recent rush of Japanese exchange banks seeking medium-term "Euro-dollar" loans might have caused overseas financial circles to suspect that Japan must be in some serious trouble financially.

Afghan Week In Review:

PM Proposes Civil Servants Reforms

As promised in his policy statement to the Wolesi Jirga of the Parliament less than four months ago, Prime Minister Noor Ahmad Elmadadi presided the first session of a commission to bring about reforms in the country's civil service system. For the Prime Minister the work is so important to achieve a proper social and economic change in the country, that in addition to opening the first session of the commission comprised of educated

people with experience in public administration, he decided that further sessions of the commission are also held in the Prime Ministry.

Truly if such measures are adopted as a result of which government officials would feel secure in the jobs they are holding, and receive a satisfactory amount of material return after they are retired, such a change will undoubtedly bring about unusual changes in the framework of the government.

"The changes will make the administration healthy, efficient and effective," the Prime Minister told the opening session of the commission. He said the aim was not to reduce the number of civil servants, but rather to prevent bureaucracy. "Our aim is to increase efficiency, coordination and speed and to provide better conditions," the Prime Minister added.

The commission will study the subjects in the framework of the remarks made by the Prime Minister on the opening day of the session and submit its views to the government later.

Also during the week a regional seminar to combat locust in this part of the world was held in Kabul under auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organisation. The seminar which ended yesterday was attended by representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and India. It urged cooperation to combat locust in the region. It also recommended the continuation of studies to find the causes of the multiplication of locust in Africa and the region.

Troops Buildup Speculation On

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, (Reuters).—The rapidly increasing tempo of Vietnam war has confronted President Johnson with tough new decisions over the size and timing of an expected new American troop buildup there.

Hardly anyone in Washington this weekend appeared to doubt that more men would be sent to the war zone, and there was speculation the president would set the new force level next week.

Those close to Johnson reported he was in no mood to compromise and was prepared to warn the American people that much more grim fighting lay ahead.

Unofficial estimates of the number of fresh troops needed have ranged up to 100,000 beyond the present authorised U.S. ceiling of 525,000 men.

Aparthied On Wheels

DURBAN, Feb. 25, (Reuters).—A taxi owner and a taxi driver each received fine in lieu of 20 days jail here yesterday, for carrying a non-white passenger in a taxi reserved for whites.

Charles Frolick, the owner, and Mary Collins, the driver, were convicted of contravening the terms of the taxi motor carrier certificate, by carrying an African man, who was accompanied by a white teacher, in their "whites only" cab in November last year.

Antique Shops

(Continued from page 3) There are some unusual and gaily coloured paintings of wild animals in the antique shops in Kabul. They are of the poster type and would do well for unusual decoration for a drab study. Some tourist make a collection of old coins there is plenty of choice here. Personally I prefer some present day currency.

The round basket-work bowls are useful for fruit and light to carry home. They appear to be something of peculiar to this part of the world. This applies too to the green alabaster fruit bowls and ashtrays which are pretty and yet very solid.

Weightlessness

(Continued from page 1) Astronauts need not fear becoming fathers of abnormal children because of damaged genes during long manned space flights if they are protected from space radiation, the space symposium added.

He said the next flight, with a chimpanzee of 30 days, should immeasurably increase knowledge of the specific effects of space flight on higher animals.

CORRECTION

In the caption of front page picture of yesterday's Kabul Times the name of the Soviet Military Attache in Kabul should be read Col. Andreiev.

sties, last week opened the Plue Charkhi substation. The station which handles a major portion of power from the Naghlu hydroelectrical station 75 kilometres east of Kabul will increase Kabul's power 100 per cent. The sub-station was completed with Soviet assistance.

The Bakhtar Airlines, established recently to handle domestic flights to remote areas, started flights to Faizabad and Jalalabad last week. Although Jalalabad is not a remote area of the country, it has a small airport which is convenient for such planes. The airlines planes have already flown to Chagharan, the centre of Ghor. The establishment of the airlines on the one hand and the fact that its planes are going to fly only to remote areas of the country where transportation is poor should bring a major change in social and economic conditions of the areas.

HANOI SAYS RURAL PACIFICATION IS FAILURE

HONG KONG, Feb. 25, (Reuters).—North Vietnam has said the rural pacification programme enforced in South Vietnam by the United States and Saigon authorities has met with "complete failure" as a result of the Viet Cong's current general offensive.

The Hanoi daily Nhan Dan in an editorial yesterday quoted by North Vietnam News Agency said:

"It is not the U.S. aggressors and their puppets who are 'pacifying' the population, but the reverse is now occurring in South Vietnam."

The most prominent among the Viet Cong successes, the paper said, was the "liberation of vast rural areas around the towns and along the strategic communication lines of the enemy."

The paper said that with a short period of time, the surging tide of coordinated attacks on the enemy in the rural areas has broken by big chunks or swept away most of the enemy's machine of control in the hamlets and villages.

"The areas under the temporary control of the enemy has been reduced to a small number of provincial and district capitals where the people of all walks of life are rising to wrest back the right to be master of their destiny."

Letter To The Editor

Dear Sir,
My initial impression of Afghanistan as the leader among the developing nations and of Kabul as a modern and progressive capital city had been rudely shattered by a sight I saw in the street.

Two shops selling foodstuffs of dead birds for sale! Yet in the recent issue of the Kabul Times there is an item about the meeting of the FAO Regional Committee at the Public Health Institute.

One of the most valuable weapons any country possesses against the locust is its bird life, yet in Kabul native enemies of the locust are sold for food in hundreds!

There is a great difference between the killing of domestic fowls and animals for food and the slaughter of wild life, simply because the breeding of domesticated species can be stepped up to meet the demand.

On the contrary the breeding of wild species, cannot be controlled and extermination must inevitably result if the birds of Afghanistan are slaughtered commercially.

I hope that action to ban the sale of your native birds will be taken before it is too late.

Yours sincerely,
Douglas M. Pearson.

UNCTAD

(Continued from page 1) there would be no guarantee that their economic upswing is assured.

The large number of 'sittings'—there were 19 last Friday—cannot hide the fact that much time has been wasted here.

It is already obvious that when the real negotiations start towards the end of the conference, numerous weekend and night sessions will be necessary and that the conference may have to be prolonged, at the expense of more nerves and increasing the huge sums it has already devoured.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB

"Businessmen's Luncheon" Wednesday February 28 12-2:00 p.m. Guest speaker: Mr. Charles Bennett.

Reservations: Phone. 21500

Weather Forecast

Skies throughout the country will be cloudy with snow in the central and northern regions and rain in the southern and western. Yesterday the warmest area was Jalalabad with a high of 19 C. 66 F. The coldest was North Salang with a low of -8 C. 17 F.

Yesterday Herat had 19 mm rain; Kadi 25 mm, 20 cm snow; Ghelmin 1 mm, 20 cm; North Salang 2 mm, 190 cm; South Salang 1 mm, 146 cm. Mukur 10 mm, 35 cm; Lal 2 mm, 104 cm; and Kalat 18 mm. Wind speed was recorded at 1 knot in Kabul yesterday. The temperature at 10 a.m. was 2 C. 36 F.

Yesterday's temperatures:		
Kabul	7 C	-2 C
	44 F	28 F
Kandahar	13 C	7 C
	55 F	44 F
Mazare Sharif	7 C	3 C
	44 F	37 F
Sharak	1 C	-4 C
	34 F	25 F
Khost	16 C	11 C
	61 F	52 F
Gardez	4 C	-6 C
	39 F	21 F



ARIANA CINEMA
At 2:30, 4:30, 7 and 9 p.m. English film in Farsi
THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY
PARK CINEMA
At 2:30, 4:30, 7 and 9 p.m. American film in Farsi
THE LIQUIDATOR